

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:
an interface to a network;
a first operational element to perform one or more tasks in the system;
a storage element containing a flag to indicate if a fault has occurred with
the first operational element; and
a backup device to enable access of the network through the interface in
response to the flag indicating failure of the first operational element.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the first operational element comprises a
disk drive.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the backup device comprises a backup
storage element containing a backup routine adapted to perform communications through
the interface to the network.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the backup routine comprises a browser.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the first operational element comprises a
first disk drive, and wherein the backup storage element comprises a second disk drive
separate from the first disk drive.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the second disk drive has a smaller storage
capacity than the first disk drive.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the backup storage element comprises
non-volatile memory.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the first operational element comprises a
disk drive having plural partitions, and wherein the backup storage element comprises
one of the partitions.

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9. The system of claim 1, wherein the backup storage element comprises a removable disk drive.

10. The system of claim 1, the backup device to retrieve user data and software over the network to recover the system.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the first operational element comprises a storage element, the backup device to retrieve an image of the storage element to recover the storage element to its operational state.

12. A method of performing error recovery in a system, comprising:
detecting if an operating portion of the system has experienced a fault;
accessing a backup device to enable communication over a network; and
retrieving data to recover the system over the network.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising loading a backup software routine from the backup device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the backup software routine comprises a browser, the method further comprising executing the browser to access the network to retrieve the data.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising executing the backup software routine to access the network.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein retrieving the data comprises retrieving the data from a backup storage system coupled to the network.

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17. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a system to:
detect if an operating portion of the system has experienced a fault;
access a backup device to enable communication over a network; and
retrieve data to recover the system over the network.

18. A method of performing recovery in a system having a main storage device and a backup storage device, comprising:
booting from a backup storage device instead of the main storage device if the system has experienced a fault; and
using the backup storage device to enable communications over a network to retrieve data to recover the system.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising loading a routine from the backup storage device to enable the network communication.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein loading the routine comprises loading a browser.

21. A system comprising:
a main storage device;
a backup storage device; and
a routine executable to boot from the backup storage device in case of a system fault,
the backup storage device enabling access over a network to retrieve data from a network node to recover the system.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the backup storage device comprises a network access routine that is loadable for execution in the system, the network access routine to enable access over the network.

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23. The system of claim 21, wherein the routine comprises a BIOS routine.

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